

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Independent City
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON:					
The Adam Thoroughgood House					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
The Adam Thoroughgood House					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Parrish Road					
CITY OR TOWN:			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		
Lynnhaven Station, Virginia Beach			Second		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY:		CODE
Virginia		51	Independent City		810
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME:					
The City of Norfolk, Virginia (administered by The Adam Thoroughgood Foundation, an agency of The Chrysler Museum, Parrish Road of Arts and Sciences.)					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Until recently known as the Norfolk Museum					
Parrish Road					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		CODE
Lynnhaven Station, Virginia Beach 23452			Virginia		51
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Clerk of the Circuit Court					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Princess Anne St., at City Hall Complex (mailing address: P.O. Box 6266)					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		CODE
Princess Anne Station, Virginia Beach 23456			Virginia		51
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
Historic American Buildings Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
Library of Congress/Annex					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Division of Prints and Photographs					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		CODE
Washington			D.C.		11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

 STATE: Virginia  
 COUNTY: Independent City  
 ENTRY NUMBER  
 DATE

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Adam Thoroughgood House, possibly started as early as 1636-40, but more likely erected at some date between 1646 and 1660, is a notable early example of the small two room plan of medieval origin, often used in Maryland and Virginia in the seventeenth century. The small brick farmhouse (22'x45') features massive end-chimneys, a steeply-pitched medieval roof-line, small leaded casement windows, and interesting brickwork.

Adam Thoroughgood came to the Virginia Colony in 1621 as an indentured servant but quickly worked off his indenture and became one of the civic leaders of the colony. By 1629, he was a member of The House of Burgesses, and upon his death in 1640 at the age of 35, he was one of the colony's largest landholders, owning at the time 7,000 acres. The 5,350 acre tract he purchased in 1636 included the site where the Adam Thoroughgood House is located near Lynnhaven Bay in Virginia Beach. His will of 1640 describes his house, and some controversy still exists as to whether the description fits this house. It may actually have been built some time before 1660 by his son Adam Thoroughgood II. In any event, it is genuinely of seventeenth century character and workmanship.

The house was altered in 1745 when larger Georgian windows replaced the casement ones, dormers were added, plaster was put on the walls covering the exposed beams, and panelling was added. In restoration projects in 1923 and 1957, these elements were changed in an effort to recreate the seventeenth century effect.

The huge end-chimneys are of two types, the north one being imbedded in the wall, the south one being stepped back from the wall. The exterior chimney is eleven feet at the base, tapering dramatically to the slender stacks high above the roofline. The south room served as the kitchen, the north as a parlor/dining area. Sleeping quarters were in the two rooms in the garret. A major portion of the ventilation of the house came from the center hall, since otherwise only the small leaded windows opened to the outside.

The brickwork at the Adam Thoroughgood House is interesting in that three walls are laid in English bond, the fourth in Flemish, with a number of interesting details, e.g. a row of glazed headers echoing the eavesline. The overall effect today suffers seriously from a series of untidy re-pointing jobs.

### Boundary Information

The Adam Thoroughgood House sits on the last remaining 4½ acres of the original 5350 acre tract, which has been seriously eroded by large-scale real estate development. Even with only this small bit of land left, however, the Adam Thoroughgood Foundation has itself recently built, immediately to the north of the house, another of the ubiquitous "visitor's centers." The accompanying sketch map illustrates that building and the site as a whole. A small garden is kept immediately east of the house, while a pair of privately-owned structures are located further east.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☒ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1636 (?)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although rather obviously restored and impinged upon by real estate development, the Adam Thoroughgood House remains one of our best remaining illustrations of a seventeenth century Virginia plantation house. What appears today to be only a small brick farmhouse was one of the finest houses of the period. It embodied the ambitiousness of Adam Thoroughgood who rose from the status of an indentured servant in 1621 to a freeholder of one of the largest pieces of land in the colony, by 1640. Stylistically, the Adam Thoroughgood House exemplifies a very simple plan (end chimneys, two rooms to a floor separated by a ten foot stair hall) and an exterior of massive and vertical proportions typical of the English late-medieval period. The house was altered in the 18th century and restored in 1923 and 1957. Its massive end-chimneys, its steep gabled roof, its small leaded windows, and its plan are its most important architectural features. While unusual in the American colonies, this type of brick farmhouse is of a type very common in the English countryside during the seventeenth century.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: Colonial Period, (New York, 1970).  
 Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).  
 Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, (New York, 1922).

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds			
NW	° ' "	° ' "	UTM: A.	18.400700.4083520	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	B.	18.400960.4083480	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	C.	18.400940.4083300	
SW	° ' "	° ' "	D.	18.400680.4083340	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
James Dillon, Architectural Historian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
National Landmarks Program, Landmark Review Project	Feb. 11, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER:	
1100 L Street NW.	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Washington	D.C.
	CODE
	011

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

Landmark  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Designated: 10/9/62.  
date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Dist. & date  
Arch. Serv. &

Keeper of The National Register:

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, OHP date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Independent City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

The Adam Thoroughgood House

The North-South boundary of The Adam Thoroughgood House extends from the northern edge of Country Club Circle to the southern edge of Thoroughgood Drive. The East-West boundary runs from the eastern edge of Parrish Road to a line running north-south, located approximately 40 yards east of the house and marked by a fence and a line of trees. The house is surrounded by development and any boundary larger than this would spill over into privately owned property. In any event, the surrounding land is not a critical factor today in the appreciation of what the Adam Thoroughgood House has to offer.

Owned by the City of Norfolk and operated by The Adam Thoroughgood Foundation through the Chrysler Museum, the house is well maintained and regularly open to the public.

